

REMARKS

The Official Action dated May 11, 2004 states that the claims in this application are directed to seven different species of the claimed subject matter. As identified in the Official Action, the seven species are as follows.

Species A illustrated in Fig. 2.

Species B shown in Fig. 5.

Species C depicted in Fig. 6.

Species D illustrated in Fig. 7.

Species E illustrated in Fig. 10.

Species F shown in Fig. 13.

Species G depicted in Fig. 14.

Based on the observation that the seven species are patentably distinct from one another, an election of species requirement has been imposed requiring an election of one of the seven species for prosecution at this time.

Responding to the election of species requirement, applicants hereby elect, with traverse, Species A shown in Fig. 2. Claims 1-3 are readable on the elected species. The election of species is made with traverse because it is believed that all of the claims in this application can be examined at the same time without serious burden. The search required for the non-elected species would be substantially coextensive with that required for the elected species. In addition, examining all of the claims of this application at the same time would only involve consideration of a

few additional claims. It is thus believed that no serious burden would result if Claims 1-8 were examined at the same time.

In light of the foregoing, withdrawal of the election of species requirement and examination of at least all of the claims in this application, including Claims 1-3 directed to the elected species, are respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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